CHANGES IN BIRD COMMUNITIES OF A SEDGE MEADOW ECOSYSTEM AFTER RESTORING ITS AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT

Key words: plant succession, bird communities, plant similarity index

Summary

The purpose of this paper is to present changes of bird populations on a sedge fen meadow as a result of restoration of mowing. Observations were carried out in the years 1999-2000 on two study plots located in Biebrza National Park. The first - study plot "Batalionowa" (38.5 hectares) - represents an open type of the sedge meadow landscape. The second study plot called "Mozaika" (15 hectares) represents the sedge meadow covered partly by small bushes and reeds. The combined mapping method was used. In autumn 1999 17.5 hectares of the first plot were mown for the first time after a long break. Two new species of breeding birds: Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) and Redshank (Tringa totanus) appeared next spring after mowing on "Batalionowa". Their return to this place of breeding as directly connected to mowing suggests partly anthropogenic character of the ecosystem and the necessity of its active protection.

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